

Settlement Summary: Banchory (including Inchmarlo)

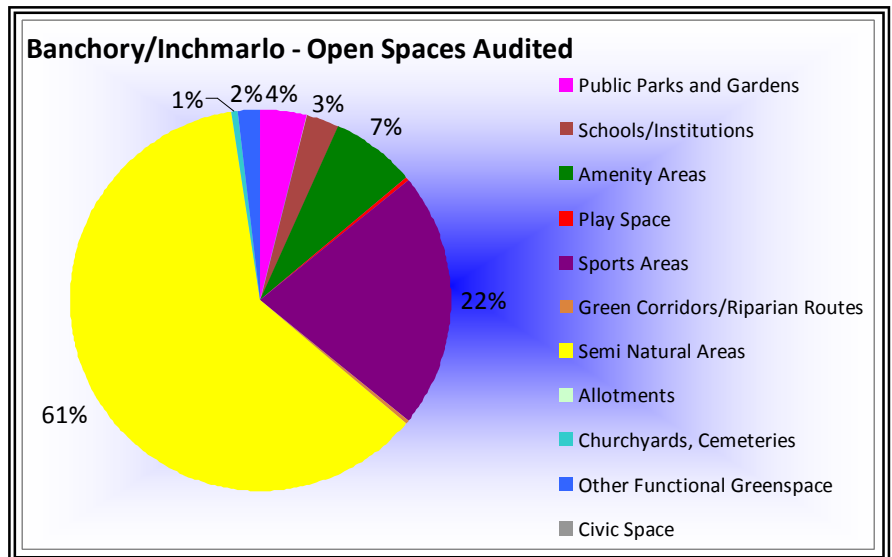
Population: 6780

Observations (of Community Council)

None received.

Green Network Links

As a medium sized town, Banchory is relatively well served by green network links, the most obvious of these being the route along the River Dee. At times this follows the old Deeside railway line, and, with the exception of a few areas, it is possible to walk from the Milton of Crathes in the east, to the far end of the golf course in the west. This is a major recreational benefit for the town, as well as providing potential for a range of habitats and species. Newer residential areas at Hill of Banchory benefit from green links through to the Dee; however, there is scope for improvement to path network and surroundings, as noted below, and an opportunity to provide improved access to the adjacent woodland area to the north. Evidence of green corridors is less marked within older, established areas of Banchory to the west; however, with much of the town bounded by woodland, as well as golf courses to the south and west of the town, there is still ready access to surrounding countryside. In the event of any further development within Banchory, as elsewhere, it will be particularly important to consider the quality and finish of the green corridors included within a proposal.



Open Space Requirements

Auditors made a large number of recommendations in Banchory, which may benefit from the further input from the community in terms of defining areas of priority. A selection of comments is listed below, although it should be noted that not all areas noted as needing improvement are the responsibility of the Council.

Riverside path:

Suggestions were made to improve the path in places, and provide signage and a map/interpretation board. (This is likely to come forward as part of the signage strategy for the Deeside Way)

Hill of Banchory:

Observations were that the path network and surroundings behind Chestnut Crescent was 'unmaintained and unattractive', and that this area be improved, for example, with the addition of some seating. Path surfacing throughout this area is poor, particularly for dog walking, popular throughout this area; and the surrounding woodland is full of rocks and stones, possibly left over following construction. Again, signage, linking through to the Deeside line or adjacent woodland the north (where there is considerable potential to improve access) is suggested; consideration

might be given to showing wider Banchory links as part of any interpretation along the Deeside Way, and identifying an off road, all abilities route as part of this.

Hill of Banchory (cont)

The kickabout area between Tall Pines and Chestnut Crescent appeared well used, but more could be done with this area for local youths – such as creation of a basketball court or volley ball facility. In addition to the picnic tables, benches could be provided: it is acknowledged that considerable effort has been input by the local community to deliver the goal/basketball facility already provided, but that these initiatives could be built on to further upgrade the site.

Hill of Banchory School:

Tennis facilities were suggested within the fenced area currently used for football, to encourage access from a wider range of users; however, this would be a matter for the school itself.

Play park opposite Hill of Banchory school:

Repairs to picnic bench needed.

Silverbank:

At Silverbank Gardens play area, installation of benches was suggested, enabling the wider community to enjoy this space, as well as younger children use the equipment. Seating or picnic facilities were also suggested in the two green areas to the rear of Silverbank Gardens, which link Hill of Banchory and Silverbank.

Beech Tree Road Area:

An unkempt, abandoned site lies to the east of Hill of Banchory South, just south of the junction with Beech Tree Road. Auditors suggested this might have potential as a community garden/park, allotment or private garden, which could significantly upgrade the appearance of the locality, as well as providing a community focus; however, ownership is unknown and any initiative would need to be subject to the support of the landowner.

Oak Tree Avenue/Forestsides Gardens

Additional goal posts would encourage better use of this large pitch area, which otherwise serves a limited purpose. Seating may also encourage more use of the site.

Banchory Primary School:

Benches were suggested within the playgrounds; however, this would be a matter for the school authorities.

Silverbank Park

Suggestion to improve path to enable disabled access, and to provide goal posts.

Tillybrake Park (School playing fields)

Tillybrake Road, which border the playing fields, can become heavily congested by parked cars, especially at weekends. In the absence of further parking areas, there may be little potential to alleviate this. However, provision of a cycle rack in the pavilion area could encourage less car dependence to access the sporting events; a cycle rack may also be helpful at Silverbank Park, although having a dedicated parking area, this may be less of a priority.

The provision of benches could extend enjoyment of this large greenspace for those not participating in sports, and a large climbing element was suggested. Although seating on the

slope overlooking the field was raised as one possibility, road safety would need to be carefully considered, and an additional location at a distance from traffic may be appropriate.

The adjacent Raemoir Avenue play area would benefit from the installation of benches and a bin.

George V Playing Field and Pavilion and Bellfield Park

Auditors suggested improved play facilities and clearing the damage caused by vandals in the pavilion area. It is understood that discussions are ongoing regarding potential improvements the playing field, and also with various community groups regarding alterations to Bellfield Park and the 'paddock'. (land to the rear of the dental surgery on Station Road).

Alexandra Park

Improved maintenance around the access area and provision of seating was suggested.

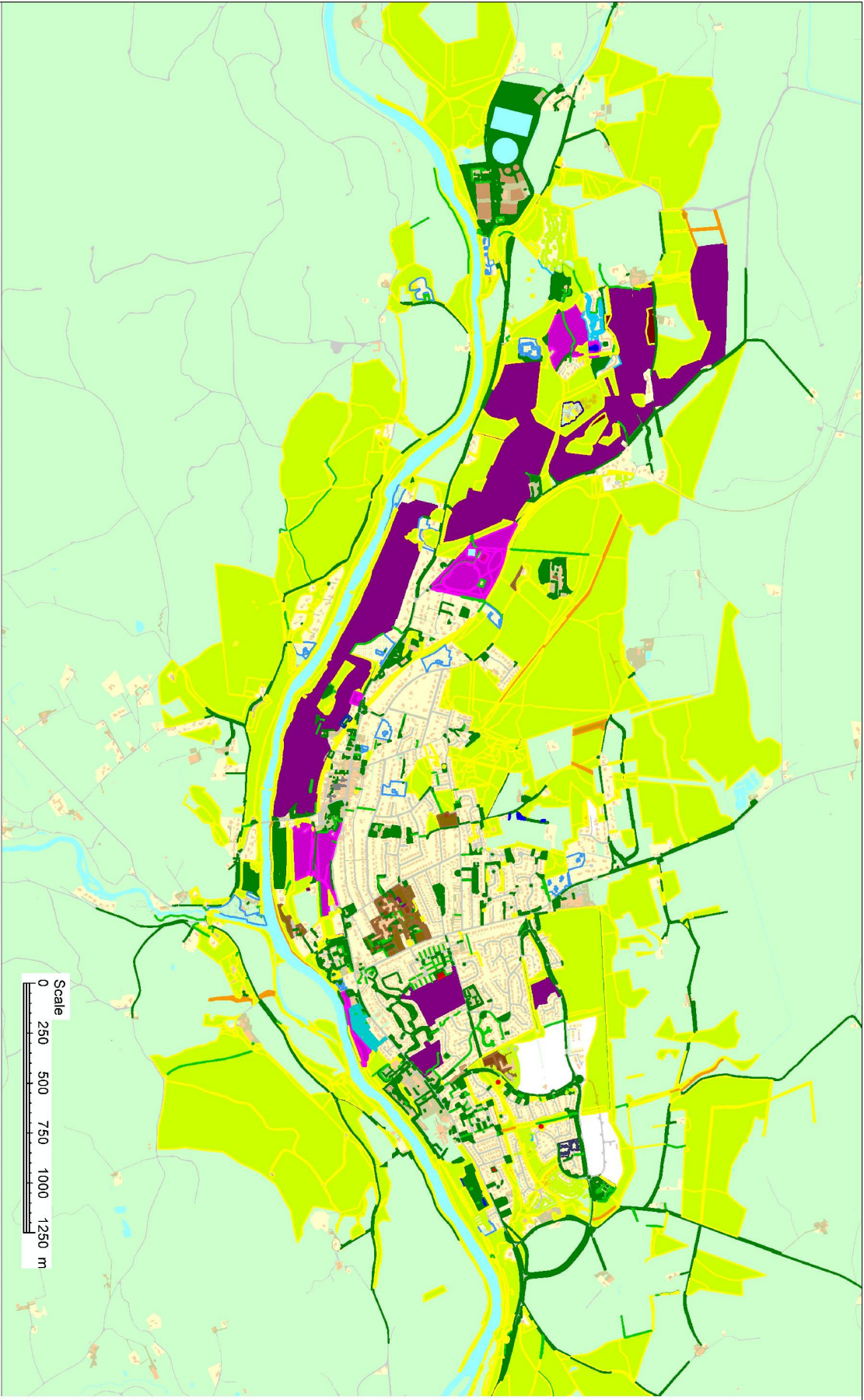
Sunset Wood

Auditors noted a lack of signs through this area, evidence of open fires, and old and broken benches. Suggestions included path signage and the installation of replacement benches, as well as picnic facilities and a BBQ area. Bins/dog bins would be helpful.

Woodland Next to Hanover Court

There was considered to be an opportunity for installation of public art along the footpath/cycleway here.

Overall, Banchory is well provided with public open space, with a large proportion of that available being in the form of semi-natural areas. Among the key issues is that of providing good quality, and inclusive access to these areas. Sports grounds also account for a significant proportion of public space; however, this is in large part due to the inclusion of two golf courses (Banchory and Inchmarlo), as well as pitch space at Banchory and Tillybrake. The audit exercise was carried out prior to the development of additional rugby pitches at Hill of Banchory, and the extensive allotment area at Woodend Barn. Whilst both of these are welcome additions for the community, it would be appropriate, moving forward, to consider the provision of sporting and exercise facilities to encourage uptake by those not attracted to pitch sports. Auditors' suggestions for tennis, volleyball and basketball facilities at Hill or Banchory, for example, would balance the provision. At the 'top end' of options in this area are multi-use courts; however, much lower key, informal facilities would also merit consideration. Further input by local community groups, in consultation with local elected Members, would be necessary respect of any significant future provision.



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Aberdeenshire Council

Scale - 1:25628

29 March 2010
Banchoy

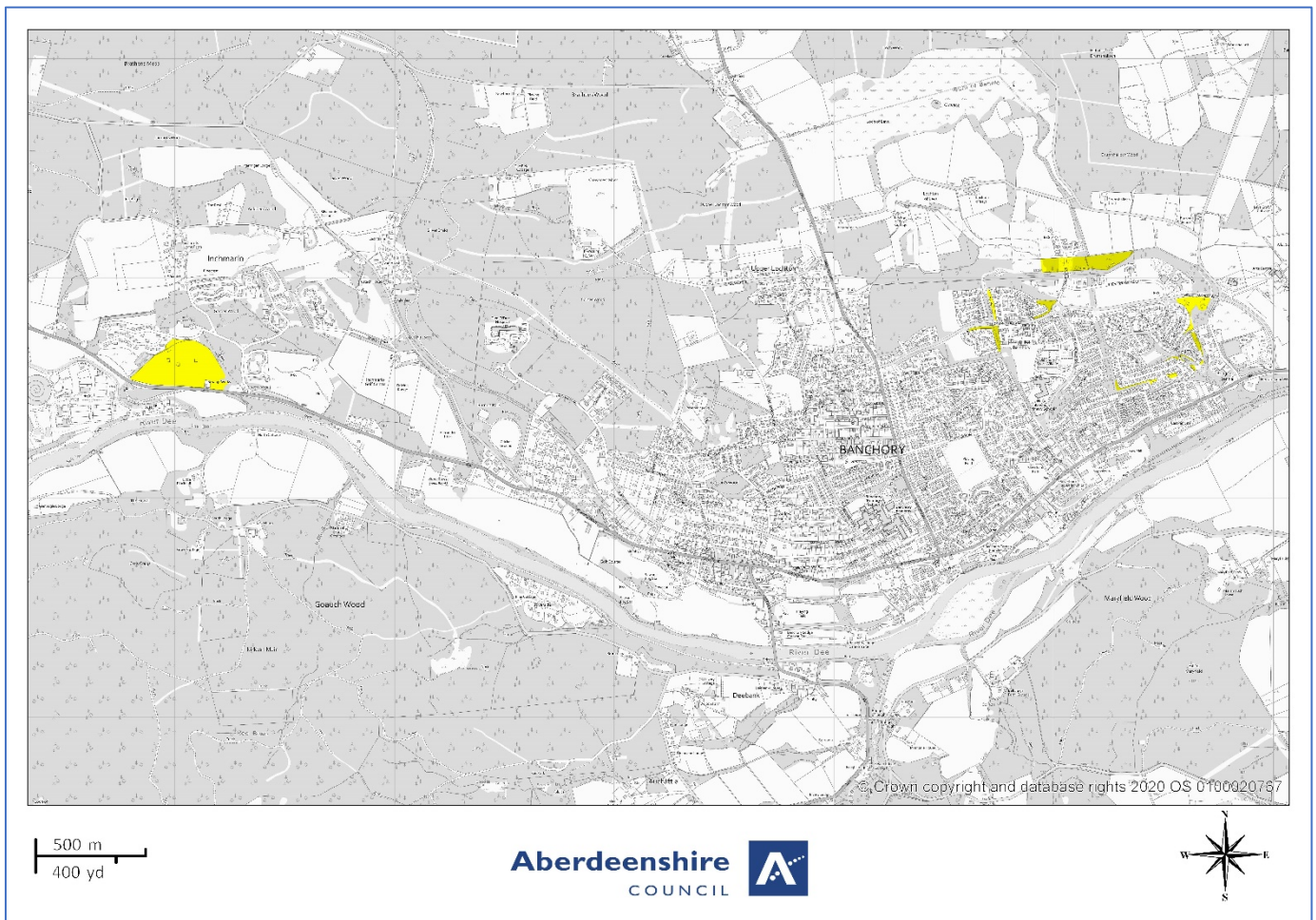
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|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Public Parks and Gardens | Schools/Institutions | Amenity Areas |
| Play Space | Sports Areas | Green Corridors/Riparian Routes |
| Semi Natural Areas | Allotments | Churchyards, Cemeteries |
| Other Functional Greenspace | | |

Open Space Audit Update 2019: Banchory (including Inchmarlo)

An update exercise was carried out in 2019 to account for new open spaces arising from major developments completed since the Open Space Audit 2010, and to address any known disparities/gaps in information. The scope of the update exercise did not include a review of the Open Space Audit 2010. The Audit update 2019 has been used to assist in the preparation of the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020.

This is an interim Audit. Whilst this information will feed into a future comprehensive Open Space Audit, at this stage there may be some auditing inconsistencies across settlements due to factors such as community interest, and landscape/topography influencing how open spaces are identified, particularly at and around the edges of settlement.

Allotments are excluded as these are audited separately as part of the Food Growing Strategy 2019-2030.



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